

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Webb on April 22, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A back-end data routing method, comprising:

receiving a request for a first item from a requestor via a unitary system for requesting items of different types;

identifying a set of back-end systems based on a location setting within a profile corresponding to the requestor, the set of back end systems having a plurality of back-end systems that each pertains to a particular type of item and communicates with a supplier having the type of item, at least one of the set of back end systems having a type of item that differs from the type of item of another of the set of back end systems;

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wherein the location setting comprises a geographic location and an employment responsibility of the requestor;

selecting a back-end system from the set of back-end systems for processing the request, wherein the back-end system is selected based on the type of item of the first item and the location setting within a profile corresponding to the requestor, wherein the first item is associated with a particular type of items;

receiving a request for a second item from a requestor via the unitary system;

and

determining, via a computer device, whether the second item is included in the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system and including the second item in the request only in case that the second item is included in the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system.

9. (Currently Amended) A back-end data routing system, comprising:

a computer device, including:

an item display system for providing a set of available items of different types to a requestor based on a location setting in a profile corresponding to the requestor, wherein the location setting comprises a geographic location and an employment responsibility of the requestor; and

a selection system

for receiving a request for a first item from the requestor via the item display system,

for identifying a set of back-end systems based on the location setting within a profile corresponding to the requestor, the set of back end systems having a plurality of back-end systems that each pertains to a particular type of item and communicates with a supplier having the type of item, at least one of the set of back end systems having a type of item that differs from the type of item of another of the set of back end systems; and

for selecting the back-end system from a set of back-end systems for processing the request, wherein the back-end system is selected based on the type of the item and the location setting, wherein the first item is associated with a particular type of items, and wherein a request for a second item by the requestor via the unitary system is limited to the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system,

for receiving a request for a second item from the requestor via the item display system; and

for determining whether the second item is included in the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system and including the second item in the request only in case that the second item is included in the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system.

18. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium for back-end data routing, which comprises:

Deleted: when executed

program code for providing a set of available items of different types to a requestor based on a location setting in a profile corresponding to the requestor, wherein the location setting comprises a geographic location and an employment responsibility of the requestor; and

program code for receiving a request for a first item from the requestor from the set of available items,

for identifying a set of back-end systems based on a location setting within a profile corresponding to the requestor, the set of back end systems having a plurality of back-end systems that each pertains to a particular type of item and communicates with a supplier having the type of item, at least one of the set of back end systems having a type of item that differs from the type of item of another of the set of back end systems; and

for selecting a back-end system from a set of back-end systems for processing the request, wherein the back-end system is selected based on the type of the item and the location setting, wherein the first item is associated with a particular type of items, and wherein a request for a second item by the requestor via the unitary system is limited to the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system,

for receiving a request for a second item from the requestor from the set of available items; and

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for determining whether the second item is included in the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system and including the second item in the request only in case that the second item is included in the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the following feature: determining whether the second item is included in the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system and including the second item in the request only in case that the second item is included in the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system.

Regarding claims 9 and 18

Claims 9 and 18 are each parallel in subject matter to the feature noted above with respect to claim 1 and are allowable for reasons similar to those provided for claim

1.

The most remarkable prior art of record is to Guo et al. (US 2005/0120121) and Yu (US 6,983,278).

Although Guo et al. disclosed many features similar to those recited in the above-indicated claims, Guo et al. still fails to teach the above-noted features in the above-noted claims.

Yu discloses a computer-implemented method for access control and for supply chain management wherein a user is assigned one or more roles (employment responsibility) within the workspace. The rules that define privileges may rely on an association between the user and the data that describes a product, for example, a user may be associated with a supplier listed in the master supplier list for the workspace, and that association may be used determine that the user has different privileges with respect to items that have a sourcing relationship to that supplier than they have to items that lack such a sourcing relationship.

It is clear from the description of Yu that the prior art does not consider the possibility of determining whether the second item is included in the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system and including the second item in the request only in case that the second item is included in the particular type of items associated with the selected back-end system, as recited in the independent claims 1, 9 and 18.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(I) US 6,823,391 to Deen et al. discloses methods and computer program products for using a front-end server to access content stored on one or more back-end servers. The front-end server receives requests for content from client systems. Upon receiving the request, the front-end server checks the validity of the request and examines a global catalog that dynamically maps client system requests to the back-end server or servers that store the requested content. The content will be stored at a single back-end server and the front-end server directs the request to that server. Alternatively, a list of back-end servers storing the requested content may be generated.

(II) "Economic Ordering Policy for Deterministic Two-Echelon Distribution Systems" to Das et al. discloses an algorithm that is suggested for determining the economic ordering policy for a product procured centrally by a supplier and distributed from a central warehouse to a number of retailers; the product is subsequently distributed to customers from the retailers.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MILA AIRAPETIAN whose telephone number is (571)272-3202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. A./

/Jeffrey A. Smith/
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